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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,        )  
                                      )  
Petitioner                        )  
                                      )  
-VS-                              ) CA No. 07-12056-PBS  
                                    ) Pages 1 - 30  
JEFFREY SHIELDS,                )  
                                    )  
Respondent                      )

DISCHARGE HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PATTI B. SARIS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

United States District Court  
1 Courthouse Way, Courtroom 19  
Boston, Massachusetts  
June 9, 2011, 10:15 a.m.

LEE A. MARZILLI  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
United States District Court  
1 Courthouse Way, Room 7200  
Boston, MA 02210  
(617) 345-6787

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2 EVE A. PIEMONTE-STACEY, ESQ. and MARK J. GRADY, ESQ.,  
3 Assistant United States Attorneys, Office of the United States  
Attorney, 1 Courthouse Way, Boston, Massachusetts, 02210,  
for the Petitioner.

4 JOHN G. SWOMLEY, ESQ. and ERIC TENNEN, ESQ.,  
5 Swomley & Associates, 227 Lewis Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts,  
02110-3927, for the Respondent.

6 ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan Hurtig, United States Probation Office.  
7 Richard Ferris (By phone), Pharos House.

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P R C C E E D T N G G

2 THE CLERK: Court calls Civil Action 07-12056, the  
3 United States v. Shields. Could counsel please identify  
4 themselves for the record.

5 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Good morning, your Honor. Eve  
6 Piemonte-Stacey and Mark Grady for the United States.

7 MR. SWOMLEY: John Swomley and Eric Tennen for  
8 Mr. Shields.

9 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: And, your Honor, Mr. Jonathan  
10 Hurtig is with us at counsel table.

11 THE COURT: Thank you so much for coming. We were  
12 supposed to have someone on the phone from Pharos House, is  
13 that right? Can you hear me?

14 MR. FERRITS: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Who is this?

16 MR. FERRIS: Richard Ferris, Director of Pharos House.

17                           THE COURT: And I'm sorry I don't know this: What  
18 city is that in?

19 MR. FERRIS: Portland, Maine.

20 THE COURT: Portland, okay. And I think you had  
21 Mr. Shields before, isn't that right?

22 MR. FERRITS: Yes.

23                           THE COURT: For a brief, what is it, five months or --  
24                           for months?

25 MR. FERRIS: I don't recall, but, yes.

1 THE COURT: Many years ago.

2 MR. FERRIS: Yes.

3 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

4 So as I understand it, we've hit a bump in the road a  
5 little bit. I was expecting to be signing something today, and  
6 do I have a draft order somewhere?

7 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Your Honor, the government does  
8 have a draft order in its possession but hasn't submitted it  
9 based on the latest developments.

10 THE COURT: Well, let me ask you this. As I  
11 understand your submission -- I finally, by the way, got in the  
12 mail yesterday the mailed sealed documents.

13 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Unbelievable.

14 THE COURT: It was dated May 24, and we received them,  
15 I think it was yesterday or the day before. So would you  
16 please -- they still are screening for anthrax in the Marshals  
17 Service, so, whatever, it takes me an extra week to get  
18 anything. Would you just let us know it's coming on sealed  
19 materials.

20 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Okay.

21 THE COURT: But, in any event, as I understand it,  
22 Mr. Shields has completed Phase 4. There is a treatment plan.  
23 The plan had been to certify him by today, and the bump in the  
24 road is the concern about whether or not he should be released  
25 for a temporary placement at Coolidge House. Is that the

1 issue?

2 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Yes, your Honor. Based on  
3 Mr. Shields's temporary placement at Coolidge House,  
4 Dr. Hernandez's and I believe Dr. Cunic's opinions are that it  
5 would be better for him to remain in BOP custody until he could  
6 be permanently released to Pharos House. Because of that, the  
7 warden would not sign a certificate of discharge.

8 THE COURT: I have the authority to discharge him  
9 anyway, is that correct?

10 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: You do, your Honor, under --  
11 well, 4247(h) was the motion under which Mr. Shields filed a  
12 petition for discharge, and 4248(e) would allow this Court to  
13 do so.

14 THE COURT: Let me ask Pharos House. This is a fairly  
15 important case. In fact, it's the first case like this in the  
16 United States of America, to my knowledge. In fact, I've  
17 confirmed that. I believe that this is the first case. I  
18 think it's in everybody's -- everybody wants him to be released  
19 to Pharos House, which is his community, Maine, rather than  
20 Massachusetts. Is there any way of getting him a bed up there?

21 MR. FERRIS: We are actually at overcapacity at the  
22 moment, and all our referrals do come through the Community  
23 Corrections Office in Philadelphia, and we consider them as the  
24 referrals come into the agency. We consider them according to  
25 placement, you know, or bed space availability.

1                   THE COURT: Well, can I ask -- I'm just trying to  
2 understand -- are you the only place in all of Maine that's a  
3 halfway house or community confinement center?

4                   MR. FERRIS: For federal, yes.

5                   THE COURT: You're the only community corrections  
6 center?

7                   MR. FERRIS: Yes, it is.

8                   THE COURT: And if the Bureau of Prisons ordered you  
9 to take somebody, would you take them above other people?

10                  MR. FERRIS: We only access federal anyway. We're all  
11 federal.

12                  THE COURT: I'm trying to figure out, is it a  
13 first-come-first-serve, or is it done on any other kind of  
14 priority level?

15                  MR. FERRIS: No. It's first-come-first-serve on the  
16 referrals from the Community Corrections Office. The Community  
17 Corrections Office has total control over referrals to the  
18 facility.

19                  THE COURT: So I'm not as familiar as you are with the  
20 bureaucracy. Is that center BOP?

21                  MR. FERRIS: Yes.

22                  THE COURT: Okay. So BOP, does it ever put people in  
23 different orders; in other words, if there's somebody a high  
24 priority? So, in other words, he in some sense should have the  
25 highest priority of all because he was actually released from

1 BOP years ago.

2 MR. FERRIS: Well, they send them, and it's all on a  
3 space-available basis.

4 THE COURT: But could he have the next bed? I'm not  
5 asking you to bump anyone. If BOP told you to give him the  
6 next bed, when would that be?

7 MR. FERRIS: Well, it's a little hard to predict but  
8 probably the end of August?

9 THE COURT: For the next bed opening if we --

10 MR. FERRIS: Probably the end of August, depending on,  
11 we often don't know when somebody's going to go on home  
12 confinement or not. We don't know if people are going to be  
13 program failures while they're living here or not, and beds can  
14 open up unexpectedly from program failure, home confinements.

15 THE COURT: Is "program failure" a euphemism for  
16 revocation?

17 MR. FERRIS: Basically, yes. They can go back to  
18 federal prison if they fail --

19 THE COURT: Okay, that's fine. So if BOP said it or I  
20 ordered it, could he be the next bed available?

21 MR. FERRIS: Well, that would be up to the Community  
22 Corrections Office.

23 THE COURT: Right, right, or me.

24 MR. FERRIS: The BOP, right, because --

25 THE COURT: Or me.

1 MR. FERRIS: -- private contract.

2 THE COURT: But let's just suppose I said "the next  
3 bed available," can you give me an average of how long that  
4 would take?

5 MR. FERRIS: Right now it is, it's like three months  
6 out, approximately three months out.

7 THE COURT: Unless somebody gets revoked or sick or  
8 whatever it is, right?

9 MR. FERRIS: Yes. Right now I'm operating at actually  
10 20 percent over our capacity.

11 THE COURT: All right, thank you. So my first option  
12 is order that he get the next bed, as I understand it; but were  
13 I to do that, it could be anywhere up to between next week and  
14 three months is what it sounds like. So that's option one.

15 MR. FERRIS: Basically, yes. What I --

16 THE COURT: Option two, release him to Coolidge House,  
17 which is what gives -- is Dr. Hernandez here?

18 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Yes, your Honor, both Dr. --

19 THE COURT: There you are. Both of you, thank you for  
20 coming. You've been very helpful. And I understand that it's  
21 extremely important because as I congratulated Mr. Shields last  
22 week, I congratulate you all, and I understand how important it  
23 is to do this correctly.

24 So another option that I have, is this right,  
25 Mr. Hurtig, when do we have a bed at Coolidge House?

1 MR. HURTIG: This afternoon, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: I also got a call from the medical center.

3 Ms. Molloy can probably say it better than I do. They wanted a  
4 little bit of leeway in order to contact the victims of the  
5 offenses from a long time ago? Since the underlying -- what do  
6 you call it? -- the triggering offense here was a child  
7 pornography offense, I'm not sure they understand that whatever  
8 victims there were were from 30 years ago. I don't know that  
9 they know that. But we got the call, and I didn't know what  
10 you all felt your obligations would be with respect to people  
11 from the '70s and '80s -- am I right? -- whether that's a state  
12 obligation or a federal obligation. Have you thought about  
13 that issue?

14 MR. GRADY: Your Honor, this is something that we had,  
15 in the context of the proceeding itself, looked at as an  
16 office; and the decision was that if there were a federal  
17 victim, that the Federal Victim Rights Notification Act would  
18 apply, and that it was not the case that it would apply with  
19 respect to victims of predecessor offenses that were not  
20 federal. So in this case there is no federal victim per se.  
21 Obviously, all of the children depicted in the pictures would  
22 be victims, but to the extent that those individuals are  
23 unknown, the only victims that we're aware of that we have  
24 identities for, to my knowledge, are from offenses in the mid  
25 and early '80s and then a twelve-year-old in 1992.

1                   THE COURT: Okay, so the bottom line is, you don't  
2 feel like you need victim notification here because they're  
3 primarily state victims from a very long time ago and he's been  
4 released in the interim, kind of thing?

5                   MR. GRADY: As the statute would apply to the U.S.  
6 Attorney's office. I can honestly say I have not looked at as  
7 to how the statute would apply to BOP's report --

8                   THE COURT: Well, you might want to just let Maine  
9 Probation know. I mean, they probably are more familiar with  
10 what's required under Maine law for whatever appropriate --

11                  All right, so as I understand it -- thank you,  
12 Mr. Hurtig -- that we could release him to Coolidge House, and  
13 so I have been thinking about this since I heard of the  
14 problem. The concern would be, you know, you start him in one  
15 place for three months and then it's staccato; you know, you  
16 sort of, like, have to readjust him and then move him to  
17 another place. Is that right?

18                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Yes, your Honor, and  
19 Dr. Hernandez can testify if this Court, you know, so desires,  
20 but it was the lack of constancy in his release plan for the  
21 immediate time.

22                  THE COURT: So the immediate question that comes to  
23 mind is, why couldn't I just release him to Coolidge House  
24 under -- I mean, I've got the chief probation officer here.  
25 Mr. Hurtig is one of the best in the country. Why don't I just

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1 release him here to stay here as an option? In other words, it  
2 goes against my sense of justice to hold him for another three  
3 months because of the overcrowding issue. In fact, I've heard,  
4 by the way, in my new position that this overcrowding is  
5 happening across the country, so in fact BOP is releasing a lot  
6 more people to home confinement, not people in Mr. Shields's  
7 position but other people, using the home confinement to free  
8 up beds for people like Mr. Shields. So I'm hearing that  
9 that's really been a cost-saving initiative and one  
10 necessitated by the overcrowding in the federal prisons in  
11 general. I mean, it's a national problem. They are now  
12 37 percent overcapacity, and they are double and triple  
13 bunking. So I imagine that the, you know, the animal coming  
14 through the snake kind of thing is, you know, it's going to hit  
15 the confinement centers as well. But why don't I just release  
16 him to Coolidge House?

17 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: You could, your Honor, and that  
18 was --

19 THE COURT: Would that meet your Phase 4 concerns?

20 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: So the way the discharge report  
21 is written -- he's completed Phase 4, so the way the discharge  
22 report is written was that he be released to a structured  
23 living environment. Coolidge House is a structured living  
24 environment, so you could do that. It's just that it's  
25 Dr. Hernandez's and Dr. Cunic's opinion that it increases his

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1 risk if he's put in one place temporarily and someplace else --

2 THE COURT: Yes, but why don't I -- I'm now turning to  
3 you because I know he's from Maine, and everyone would want to  
4 go back to their home, and that's better probably, but why  
5 don't I put him back in Coolidge House at least for the year  
6 and then -- as I read, when I finally got a copy of the release  
7 plan, the theory was that in six months to a year he was  
8 supposed to go out into the community anyway; and at that point  
9 we could, if he's doing well -- I've got these great probation  
10 officers -- if they think he's doing well, we could then  
11 transfer him up to Maine.

12 MR. SWOMLEY: Could I give you a -- what I'm hearing  
13 sounds like the hybrid of that but a little bit different  
14 figures?

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. SWOMLEY: And that is, what you haven't heard and  
17 what I don't know -- obviously I haven't heard from  
18 Dr. Hernandez testifying-wise as to his reasons for changing  
19 his opinion, but in terms of his ability --

20 THE COURT: I don't think he's changed it. He just --

21 MR. SWOMLEY: I guess what I'm saying, in terms of  
22 stability and all that, the concerns, I mean, I would think  
23 that there are concerns about the alternative that was  
24 proposed, not that you're proposing but that was proposed to  
25 send him back to Butner. I would argue that --

1 THE COURT: I'm not doing that.

2 MR. SWOMLEY: Okay. Then I'm not even going to argue.

3 THE COURT: Don't argue. I've got two choices here  
4 basically.

5 MR. SWOMLEY: What I would propose instead is that he  
6 be discharged to Coolidge House. The reality, and I think  
7 Dr. Hernandez is right about this, that it is more restrictive  
8 even than was initially envisioned at Pharos House; but what I  
9 would suggest is, if the question that Dr. Hernandez is opining  
10 that concerns him is the multiple transitions, then let's  
11 discharge him to Coolidge House. And I would actually ask you,  
12 if stability is not an issue, if he is doing well, that we be  
13 permitted to come back here the moment that there is a bed  
14 available at Pharos House because it is a preferable facility.

15 THE COURT: Well, can you all live with that on the  
16 government's side? In other words, Mr. Hurtig, we release him  
17 to Coolidge, assume it's long-term. He should go out and look  
18 for a job, he should get embedded in AA programs and all the  
19 kinds of things that you all want; and then, when it's time for  
20 him to be released, if he's doing well, we would let him go  
21 back to Maine. If not, maybe he'll like Massachusetts.

22 Mr. Hurtig, does that make sense to you?

23 MR. HURTIG: Your Honor, it does make sense. My only  
24 concern with it is Mr. Shields being put in a community that's  
25 not his home community, which from my understanding, and I've

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1 had no direct conversation with Mr. Shields, is that ultimately  
2 the goal is to get him to Maine, and I wouldn't want to impede  
3 that in any way. One thing that may be of benefit to the Court  
4 for the Court to know is that the treatment provider that's  
5 used in Maine, a Mr. Stephen Thomas, has a good, close working  
6 professional relationship with Dr. Cusack, the treatment  
7 provider we use here in Massachusetts, and the two of them --

8 THE COURT: Who's here, right?

9 MR. HURTIG: No.

10 THE COURT: Who is he?

11 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Dr. Cunic. It's real close.

12 THE COURT: Oh, all right. I'm sorry. All right.

13 MR. HURTIG: The two of them have worked very closely  
14 in the past with similar situations such as these and  
15 transferring people that have been in sex offender treatment  
16 back and forth to one another, and it's something that they're  
17 capable to do and willing to do and something that they've done  
18 very effectively in the past. So if Mr. Shields were to begin  
19 his placement in the community at Coolidge House, and if and  
20 when a bed became available at Pharos House and he was  
21 transitioned there, the two treatment providers primarily  
22 involved in the case do have a history of working together and  
23 would be able to facilitate as smooth a transition as possible.

24 THE COURT: And could we consult with Dr. Hernandez  
25 and Dr. Cunic?

1                  Does that work for you, Dr. Hernandez? I'm looking  
2 over the heads of everybody because you know more than anybody  
3 sitting in this room. The two of you do, the two of you do.  
4 And so what if we sent him to Coolidge, he gets a job here, he  
5 gets settled here, we see how he does, we find out when a bed  
6 from Pharos becomes available, and if you feel it's premature  
7 and it would be disruptive, we keep him here?

8                  DR. HERNANDEZ: My relationship with Mr. Shields --

9                  THE COURT: Why don't you come on up. You flew up for  
10 this hearing?

11                 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, ma'am.

12                 THE COURT: You both did?

13                 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

14                 THE COURT: Thank you. This is an important case for  
15 you right now, huh?

16                 DR. HERNANDEZ: It is.

17                 THE COURT: In fact, it was showcased. I mean, I  
18 think everybody in the country, not to put pressure on you  
19 both, but knows about this case, not necessarily the name but  
20 the fact that this is happening. So I know we need it all to  
21 go smoothly if possible.

22                 DR. HERNANDEZ: And that's our interest too. We have  
23 invested a lot of resources. I have invested professional  
24 resources, so I'm very interested in this case going well.

25                 I do realize that my relationship with Mr. Shields

1 will end and that I will not continue in an advisory  
2 relationship with him, as the Bureau of Prisons basically in my  
3 role will sever that relationship once we turn over care to  
4 U.S. Probation and contractors in the community.

5 The issue is the transitional nature of the immediate  
6 release plan. The transitional plan -- that is, three or four  
7 months where he is expected to reintegrate into the community,  
8 develop a relationship with his probation officer, develop a  
9 relationship with his community therapist, establish a support  
10 network through AA, friendships, and establish employment --  
11 all of those interests are impeded by the transitional nature  
12 of the current release plan. Should it be a permanent release  
13 plan, then we could evaluate that release plan on its own  
14 merits without necessarily establishing a goal for him to  
15 return home.

16 In my conversations with Mr. Shields, he is prepared  
17 to reintegrate or integrate into this community if permitted by  
18 the Court. So, from my perspective, I think it is more of an  
19 interest of the probation officer to have him return to Maine,  
20 and I certainly understand that. However, his ties to the  
21 community in Maine are not all that great. It is more --

22 THE COURT: Does he have family there still?

23 DR. HERNANDEZ: He has his father from whom he has  
24 been estranged for nearly 40 years, and he has recently begun  
25 to establish telephone contact with him, so no material support

1       whatsoever and no family support other than his father, who  
2       would provide some degree of emotional support.

3                 THE COURT: Would you -- this is a little different  
4       than the way I left it with Judge Woodcock, whom, as I  
5       mentioned, was the sentencing judge whom I called several weeks  
6       ago, but would it, at least from the federal government's and  
7       BOP's point of view, be satisfactory to essentially have a  
8       permanent release plan to the Coolidge House, and then with  
9       eventual release into the community according to your plan?  
10      And then, Doctor, when it was time for him to get out, if  
11     everyone thought he was still doing terrifically -- and you  
12     gave us some warning flags to look for -- but if he was doing  
13     very well, then we could consider transitioning him back to  
14     Maine if he wanted to, and, if he didn't, have him stay here.  
15     Does that make some sense?

16                 DR. HERNANDEZ: I think that would be reasonable.

17                 THE COURT: I'm now trying to think, because this is  
18     the first in the country, how to -- he's still on supervised  
19     release for the nine months out of Maine. Have you talk to  
20     Maine Probation? Is anyone here from Maine Probation? I  
21     didn't ask anyone to come.

22                 MR. HURTIG: No, your Honor. I've been in regular  
23     communication with them, and the transfer of supervision in a  
24     criminal case from one district to another is a routine event.

25                 THE COURT: So we would simply request it.

1                   MR. HURTIG: Yeah, we wouldn't even have to. We would  
2 just assume supervision of the case; and if they wanted to  
3 maintain jurisdiction over it, they could. If not, that could  
4 be transferred as well, depending on what you and Judge Woodcock  
5 would prefer.

6                   THE COURT: Okay, so you're happy as long as it's a  
7 permanent placement. And, of course, permanent doesn't really  
8 mean permanent. It means -- you know, it could be -- how long  
9 are you recommending I keep supervision? It's until I cut it  
10 off? Is that it?

11                  DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, indeterminate.

12                  THE COURT: So this is an indeterminate situation, so,  
13 I mean, we're all going to grow old together.

14                  DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

15                  THE COURT: You're not going -- so my hope is that at  
16 some point, if he chooses to go back to Maine, he will be well  
17 enough to be able to do that; and if he integrates here into  
18 this community in a successful way, he would stay. Does that  
19 sound right?

20                  Do you want to be in Butner? Do you want to be in  
21 North Carolina? I mean, that's, I guess, a third possibility.  
22 Do you want to be down there at all? If you don't feel a  
23 particular -- because you have a program too, right, he could  
24 be released to?

25                  DR. HERNANDEZ: Well, there is a halfway house in

1 Fayetteville -- this information came up -- but no referral has  
2 been made; and in our conversations with U.S. Probation and the  
3 U.S. Attorney's office, it seems like that has not been  
4 considered.

5 THE COURT: Okay, so that's not one of the things  
6 anyone wants to be on the plate. So my two options: I accept  
7 the release plan. I think no one's really objecting to that.  
8 I mean, that seems very well thought out. And I think I've got  
9 the best people in the country here supervising it, and the  
10 issue has only been whether or not it's too disjointed to go  
11 from one placement to another placement. And so as long as I  
12 send him to Coolidge House, then I give you the right to come  
13 back in a year to decide if he prefers to go back to Maine.  
14 Does that seem okay to you?

15 MR. SWOMLEY: It does, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: In the meantime, if Pharos House could let  
17 us know when a bed becomes available, we can make a decision at  
18 that point whether it is worth it.

19 MR. SWOMLEY: That's the only thing I was asking was  
20 if a bed becomes available and it appears to be not a  
21 disjointed or --

22 THE COURT: Like, if it's in one week or two weeks,  
23 who cares? We'd move him right up there, right? If he's  
24 deeply ensconced in three months, it makes no sense. Isn't  
25 that what you're saying?

1                   MR. SWOMLEY: And Dr. Hernandez is right in terms of  
2 the connections to Maine. His father could come down here by  
3 Amtrak. He could be permitted, I don't know, at some point to  
4 visit him. That's the only issue, and, frankly, that's not  
5 enough to make him not want to get out.

6                   THE COURT: Is everybody happy at this point with this  
7 solution?

8                   MR. SWOMLEY: Yes.

9                   THE COURT: Hearing no objection, I will -- do you  
10 have an order for me to sign?

11                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Your Honor, I do have a  
12 proposed --

13                  THE COURT: I don't actually have the certification  
14 from the warden yet, do I?

15                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Well, that's the problem. He  
16 won't certify based on Dr. Hernandez's objection to the --

17                  THE COURT: Yes, but he no longer has one, so when do  
18 I get it?

19                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: You can do it without one, which  
20 is allowing the petition for discharge under 42 --

21                  THE COURT: I'm happy to do that, but I would love  
22 this because this could be the poster child case for how these  
23 things should work. I would like everyone to be -- when can I  
24 get a certificate from the warden?

25                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Aside from -- I can't speak for

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1 the warden, your Honor, but I think what would have to happen  
2 is, Dr. Hernandez has to have a communication with the warden,  
3 because this is how it all started, saying, "I'm okay with this  
4 new plan."

5 THE COURT: Can you do that, like, leaving right  
6 today?

7 DR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I can call, and he would expect  
8 both I and Dr. Cunic to be in support of this plan.

9 THE COURT: Dr. Cunic, are you in support of this?

10 DR. CUNIC: Yes, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Perfect. So why don't you make that call.  
12 Why don't we get the certificate out today or tomorrow, and  
13 then I will sign everything. And do you want to just have a  
14 quick hearing, not to expect these folks to be here, to bring  
15 him back in tomorrow, and then we will release him?

16 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Your Honor, I would like the  
17 hearing just in case the warden says "no" or something.

18 THE COURT: In case the warden says "no," then I  
19 will -- I just think this is so significant a case. The  
20 Congress will be watching, you know, all the probation offices  
21 in the country. It's important to do this correctly.

22 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: I understand.

23 MR. SWOMLEY: Could I be the one that says, can we see  
24 if we can do this today while he's here and get a fax up from  
25 the warden?

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1                   THE COURT: I'm happy to hold him and see if we can do  
2 that. Is that doable?

3                   MR. SWOMLEY: Tomorrow is going to be a little  
4 tougher.

5                   THE COURT: What's tomorrow, other than Friday?

6                   DR. HERNANDEZ: Your Honor, I can call right now.

7                   THE COURT: Well, why don't you do that. I'm here all  
8 day today.

9                   MR. SWOMLEY: I have a District Court in the state  
10 matter in Brockton. That's the only thing I have in the  
11 morning.

12                  THE COURT: What time?

13                  MR. SWOMLEY: Nine in the morning.

14                  THE COURT: All right. Well, we could always do it at  
15 2:00 or something like that, but let's try and do it right now.  
16 I can't? Oh, I have something at 12:30 that takes me out of  
17 the office, so we could do it maybe at noon or something like  
18 that if we have to. But rather than holding everyone here for  
19 a day, let's try and get that. Even if I get the oral say-so  
20 that it's okay with the fax to follow, I'm fine with it. So do  
21 you want to just take a, oh, I don't know, half-an-hour break  
22 and see what we can figure out?

23                  MR. SWOMLEY: Thank you.

24                  THE COURT: And then we'll all come back in fifteen  
25 minutes. I will take your word for it, with the fax to follow,

1 that he will sign the certificate, and if not, we'll come back  
2 here tomorrow. So right now we're going to come back -- what  
3 time can we --

4 (Discussion off the record between the Court and  
5 Clerk.)

6 THE COURT: Oh, good. Do you want to come back --  
7 it's twenty minutes to 11:00 -- do you want 11:15? And you'll  
8 have an order for me? Have you seen the order? You're all  
9 happy with it? You're going to hand me an order, and I'm going  
10 to sign it. And then he'll be brought, just so the marshals  
11 will know, he'll be brought back downstairs to be released.  
12 Are there any detainees on him?

13 THE MARSHAL: We haven't received the release  
14 paperwork from BOP. When I came up here this morning, it  
15 hadn't come over the fax yet. So it might be there now.  
16 There's a release package to be signed and --

17 THE COURT: Sure.

18 MR. SWOMLEY: Mr. Shields tells me that when he was  
19 sent from Devens, they sent him as if he were not coming back.

20 THE COURT: Yes, all right, and that makes sense.  
21 Let's just try and do it today while the iron is hot because,  
22 as I understand it, the objections are no longer there.

23 MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: And, I'm sorry, but I have  
24 contrary information from legal at Devens, which was that I had  
25 requested release from Devens so he could pick up his personal

1 things and have enough medication for 30 to 60 days, so --

2 MR. SWOMLEY: They have the medication. The  
3 medication is here, but neither his property nor his moneys  
4 from Butner has even arrived at Devens yet.

5 THE COURT: So what happens then? Will it go right to  
6 Coolidge House?

7 MR. SWOMLEY: Somebody is going to have to get it from  
8 Devens. I don't know the details of that. Oh, it comes to me.  
9 He signed it over to me, so I probably will have to pick it up.

10 THE COURT: All right, see you at 11:15, and hopefully  
11 we'll --

12 MR. SWOMLEY: We still have the guy from Pharos House  
13 on the phone? Can you ask him or order him that the first bed  
14 available, can he notify you and notify me?

15 THE COURT: Yes. Can you do that?

16 MR. FERRIS: At Pharos House, through the CCM's office  
17 the referral would go.

18 THE COURT: I'm just not hearing you well.

19 MR. FERRIS: Through the BOP office the referral could  
20 be made.

21 THE COURT: Yes, but I'm ordering you to let us know  
22 when the first bed becomes available, and Mr. Hurtig can maybe  
23 call up there and just coordinate, and then we can coordinate  
24 through BOP in terms of timing. This may not be necessary,  
25 just so that we at least have the option.

1                   MR. HURTIG: Your Honor, I'll maintain communication  
2 with the Community Corrections manager.

3                   THE COURT: Thank you so much. Can you hear him?  
4 He's going to maintain, but I also want to make sure that if  
5 something comes up like tomorrow, that might be the better  
6 solution overall, I mean; but if not, if it's not going to be  
7 for months and he's deeply involved here and wants to stay  
8 here, it may become a moot point, so --

9                   MR. FERRIS: And BOP is in basically daily contact  
10 with us anyway.

11                  THE COURT: Okay, perfect. Thank you, thank you. And  
12 what's your phone number?

13                  THE CLERK: I have it.

14                  THE COURT: All right, we have it. Okay, perfect.  
15 Thank you.

16                  MR. FERRIS: You're welcome.

17                  THE COURT: We'll be back at 11:15. You don't need to  
18 come back, sir, from Pharos House.

19                  MR. FERRIS: Thank you.

20                  (A recess was taken, 10:42 a.m.)

21                  (Resumed, 11:56 a.m.)

22                  THE COURT: You got it? All right. The government,  
23 Ms. Stacy?

24                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Yes, your Honor, we've been able  
25 to speak with legal counsel who spoke with the warden at

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1 Butner, and at this time the warden is able to sign a  
2 certificate, again, based on the understanding that it's a  
3 possible permanent placement at Coolidge House, and so the  
4 certificate will hopefully be forthcoming this afternoon.

5 THE COURT: All right, I'm going to sign it now.

6 Anything you want to say at this point?

7 MR. SWOMLEY: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: All right, thank you. Well, actually I  
9 should probably say a few things because in some ways this is a  
10 historic moment, and let me just start off by thanking the team  
11 at Butner. I have some experience with the situation in  
12 Massachusetts where once somebody properly is certified under  
13 these programs, you almost never get someone to say, "Our  
14 treatment plan has moved along to the point where we think this  
15 person can be released." It's a rare bird if it happens, and I  
16 really appreciate the almost Cadillac treatment you have given  
17 Mr. Shields. I think he's had -- there are two people in the  
18 program, so I understand it's a question of numbers, but you  
19 both have invested so much time and effort into it. I want to  
20 thank you for doing that. And I know how important it is for  
21 you to have this succeed because you've flown up here to have  
22 this happen.

23 I can assure everyone here that you have the top  
24 people in our Probation Office here, and so that he will get  
25 good supervision to make sure that the plan is in place and to

1 make sure that the public is protected. So I want to thank the  
2 U.S. Attorney's office for all the efforts.

3 And Mr. Swomley I know knows more about these cases,  
4 both on state and federal. Ironically, the case is still  
5 pending in front of the First Circuit, so I honestly don't know  
6 legally how long this is going to last, but I wanted to thank  
7 you for all the efforts you've put into this case. From the  
8 very beginning till the end, you fought hard in this case.

9 MR. SWOMLEY: Thank you, your Honor. And just so you  
10 know, I don't leave the case when he goes out the door. I  
11 actually stay involved as long as he would want me to.

12 THE COURT: Good. And last and probably most  
13 importantly, Mr. Shields, I remember reading your background  
14 and being caught by two things. One is how horrible the  
15 background was, but then how much that one psychiatrist at  
16 Butner and you finally bonded so that you were able to start  
17 working through your problems, and I have your relapse  
18 prevention and good life plan together with graphics and how  
19 far you have come.

20 I do this with some trepidation because two prior sex  
21 offender treatment plans didn't work, so I understand that you  
22 still have a lot of work to go, and I am hopeful -- I was  
23 thinking about it upstairs -- on your part that this works  
24 because you've spent almost half your life in jail, right?

25 MR. SHIELDS: Yes.

1                   THE COURT: And I'm just hoping that you don't spend  
2 the second half of your life in jail. And also, from the  
3 public's point of view, of course, I'd horrified myself if  
4 anything happened to a child because you couldn't work this  
5 through. So, please, if you find yourself slipping, the answer  
6 is to communicate with your lawyer, with Probation. The team  
7 at Butner I'm sure would take a phone call. Isn't that right?

8                   FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

9                   THE COURT: It's critically important, not just for  
10 you but for everyone following you, for people to understand  
11 that treatment does work because other than that, the  
12 temptation of the public, I think, is to throw away the key.  
13 So I don't want to put the whole population of people like  
14 yourself on your back, but to some extent it's true, and so I  
15 for all of us wish you best the luck.

16                  I don't know how this works from now on after I sign  
17 it, which I'm about to do. Should we set up a yearly status  
18 conference? How should we do this?

19                  MS. PIEMONTE-STACY: Yes, your Honor, I would suggest  
20 a status conference. And we've confirmed with Devens that he  
21 can be released from here. He does not have to return to  
22 Devens.

23                  THE COURT: So I think you have to go back downstairs,  
24 is that right? You've got the release papers now?

25                  THE MARSHAL: I called downstairs, and Supervisor Neil

1 was going to check on it.

2 THE COURT: It's the 9th today, isn't it, so I get the  
3 right date?

4 THE CLERK: Yes, it's the 9th.

5 THE COURT: So I'll see you in a year, the 8th of  
6 June.

7 THE CLERK: 2012, 9:00?

8 THE COURT: I don't know. Do it in the afternoon  
9 because we never know when we're on trial.

10 THE CLERK: All right, 2:30.

11 THE COURT: I want to thank you very much for coming  
12 up from Butner and for all the support that you both have  
13 given, and I truly hope I don't see you between now and next  
14 June.

15 Is there anything you would like to say?

16 MR. SHIELDS: Yes. Just thank you very much. I have  
17 said it time and time again to my treatment team: Without  
18 them, none of this would be possible. So I know that I had to  
19 do the work, but they're the ones that got me through all of  
20 this, so thank you very much.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 Anything else, Mr. Hurtig, government? All right,  
23 I've signed it. I will see you in a year. And then if a bed  
24 comes available at Pharos House, and if you want it, we will  
25 first communicate deeply with the team to see whether you think

1 it would be disruptive and interfere with your predictions as  
2 to safety. And I sincerely hope, other than our annual  
3 checkups, shall we say, that I don't see you again.

4 MR. SHIELDS: The next time you see me will be June 8,  
5 2012.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And last but not least, are you  
7 going to communicate with Probation in Maine so they're not  
8 expecting him up there?

9 MR. HURTIG: Yes, your Honor. I've already spoken  
10 with them today.

11 THE COURT: So they know what's going on?

12 MR. HURTIG: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Perfect. Thank you. Thank you to  
14 everybody. All right, we stand in recess.

15 THE CLERK: All rise.

16 (Adjourned, 12:03 p.m.)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT )  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS ) ss.  
CITY OF BOSTON )  
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I, Lee A. Marzilli, Official Court Reporter, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1 through 30  
inclusive, was recorded by me stenographically at the time and  
place aforesaid in Civil Action No. 07-12056-PBS, United States  
of America v. Jeffrey Shields, and thereafter by me reduced to  
typewriting and is a true and accurate record of the  
proceedings.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this  
29th day of June, 2011.

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21 /s/ Lee A. Marzilli

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22 LEE A. MARZILLI, RPR, CRR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
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24  
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